



News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY - 2008 CROPS

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado experienced a hot and dry growing season in 2008. A longer than usual growing season made it difficult for summer grain crops to dry down which delayed harvest for several weeks. Acreage and production of 2008 crops are compared with revisions of 2007 crops as the result of the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The 2008 **corn for grain** crop was estimated at 147.96 million bushels, slightly less than last year's output. The average yield of 137.0 bushels per acre was 3.0 bushels per acre below the yield achieved last year. Area harvested for grain in 2008, at 1.08 million acres, was 20,000 acres greater than last year. Acreage cut for **corn silage** was set at 120,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from last year. **Sorghum** for grain production was estimated at 4.50 million bushels, down 19 percent from the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 30.0 bushels per acre, down 7.0 bushels per acre from last year. Producers harvested 150,000 acres for grain, unchanged from last year's area. **Proso millet** production in the state was estimated at 7.59 million bushels, down from 8.58 million bushels produced last year. Farmers harvested 230,000 acres of proso, down 30,000 from the previous year. Yields remained unchanged from last year averaging 33.0 bushels per acre. **Dry edible bean** production was set at 660,000 cwt, 10 percent below the 2007 crop of 7.36 million cwt. Average yield was estimated at 1,500 pounds per acre, 100 pounds below last year as a greater proportion of the crop was non-irrigated. Harvested area, at 44,000 acres, was 2,000 less than last year.

The final 2008 **all wheat** production for Colorado, at 59.7 million bushels, was down 36 percent from the production attained the previous year. **Winter wheat** production was estimated at 57.0 million bushels, 38 percent of last year's above average crop. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 1.9 million acres, down from 2.4 million acres harvested last year. The area seeded last fall for this year's crop was estimated at 2.4 million acres. This year's **spring wheat** crop was estimated at 2,700,000 bushels, up 103 percent from last year's crop. The average yield of 75.0 bushels per acre was 5 bushels above last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 36,000 acres from 40,000 seeded, up from 19,000 harvested in 2007. Colorado's **barley** production in 2008 was estimated at 8.64 million bushels, up 24 percent from a year ago. The average yield per acre, at 120.0 bushels, was equal to the yield attained last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 72,000 acres, up from 58,000 acres in 2007. Production of **oats** in 2008 totaled 490,000 bushels, 11 percent below last year. Average yield was placed at 70.0 bushels per acre, up 15 bushels above last year's crop. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 7,000 acres, 3,000 acres less compared to 2007. Acres seeded to oats totaled 45,000 in 2008 down 30,000 acres from last year.

Colorado's 2008 **alfalfa hay** production was placed at 2.71 million tons from 820,000 acres harvested. The average yield for the 2008 crop was 3.3 tons per acre, four-tenths of a ton below last year. **All other hay** production totaled 1.28 million tons from 750,000 acres harvested. The average yield of 1.7 tons per acre was two-tenths of a ton below the yield attained last year. **Hay stocks** on farms and ranches in Colorado totaled 1.98 million tons on December 1, 2008, down 18 percent from 2.4 million tons on hand the previous year.

Fall potato growers in the San Luis Valley produced 21.338 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 2 percent from last year's crop. Average yield was 375 cwt per acre, up 20 cwt per acre from last year's yield. The harvested area of 56,900 acres this year was 2,200 acres less than in 2007. The **summer potato** yield, at 360 cwt per acre, averaged 10 cwt above last year's average yield. Growers harvested 4,000 acres, up 1,300 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is set at 1,440,000 cwt, up from last year's production of 945,000 cwt. The state's **sugarbeet** crop of 758,000 tons for 2008 was down 1 percent from the 765,000 tons produced in 2007. Producers harvested 28,600 acres in 2008. Average yield was estimated at 26.5 tons per acre. **Sunflower** production was set at 153.4 million pounds from 162,000 acres harvested. Yield was set at 947 pounds per acre, down from the 1,146 pounds attained last year. Production of oil varieties increased 17 percent from the previous year to 128.7 million pounds and production of non-oil varieties increased 27 percent to 24.7 million pounds.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The United States **corn** for grain production is estimated at 12.1 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the November forecast but 7 percent lower than last year's record high. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 153.9 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from the November forecast and 3.2 bushels above 2007. Yield is the second highest on record, behind 2004, and production is the second largest, behind last year. **Sorghum** grain production in 2008 is estimated at 472 million bushels, up 2 percent from the November forecast but 5 percent below 2007. Planted area is estimated at 8.28 million acres, up 7 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain, at 7.27 million acres, is up 7 percent from 2007. Average grain yield, at 65.0 bushels per acre, is up 2.0 bushels from the previous forecast but down 8.2 bushels from last year.

All Wheat production totals 2.50 billion bushels in 2008, unchanged from the Small Grains 2008 Summary but up 22 percent from 2007. Grain area is 55.7 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.9 bushels per

acre, up 4.7 bushels from last year. The levels of production and changes from last year by type are winter wheat, 1.87 billion bushels, up 25 percent; other spring wheat, 547 million bushels, up 14 percent; and Durum wheat, 84.9 million bushels, up 18 percent. The 2008 **winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.87 billion bushels, unchanged from the Small Grains 2008 Summary but up 25 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 47.2 bushels per acre, up 5.5 bushels from last year's final yield. Planted acreage is up fractionally from the Small Grains 2008 Summary. This change to the acreage estimate is based on updated administrative data received after the Small Grains 2008 Summary. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 39.6 million acres, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hard Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 1 percent from the previous year while Soft Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 43 percent. **Other Spring Wheat** production for 2008 is estimated at 547 million bushels, unchanged from the Small Grains 2008 Summary but up 14 percent from last year. Harvested area is 13.5 million acres, up 4 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is 40.5 bushels per acre, up 3.4 bushels from last year.

Barley production is estimated at 239 million bushels, unchanged from the Small Grains 2008 Summary but 14 percent above 2007. Average yield per acre, at 63.6 bushels, is up 3.6 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.77 million acres, 8 percent above a year ago. Harvested area increased from last year in the top two producing States, up 150,000 acres in North Dakota and up 30,000 acres in Idaho. These increases in harvested acres coupled with increased or unchanged yields in the top producing States resulted in the increased production. The 2008 **oat** production is estimated at a record low 88.6 million bushels, down 2 percent from last year. The estimated yield is 63.5 bushels per acre, up 3.4 bushels from the previous year. Area planted to oats is estimated at a record low 3.22 million acres, down 15 percent from 2007. Harvested area, at 1.40 million acres, is 7 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend. The largest decline occurred in North Dakota, where area harvested for grain decreased 130,000 acres from last year.

All Hay production of dry hay for 2008 is estimated at 146 million tons, down 3 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 1 percent from the 2007 total. Area harvested, at 60.1 million acres, is down 1 percent from the October forecast and down 2 percent from 2007. The average yield, at 2.43 tons per acre, is down 0.06 ton from October but up 0.02 ton from the previous year. **Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures hay** production in 2008 is estimated at 69.6 million tons, down 3 percent from the October 1 forecast and down slightly from 2007. Harvested area, at 21.0 million acres, is 1 percent above the October forecast but 1 percent below the previous year. The average yield is 3.32 tons per acre, 0.12 ton below the previous forecast but 0.01 ton above 2007. **All Other Hay** production in 2008 totaled 76.1 million tons, down 4 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 1 percent from 2007. Area for harvest, at 39.1 million acres, is down 1 percent from October and 2 percent below last year. The average yield is estimated at 1.95 tons per acre, down 0.04 ton from October but up 0.02 ton from last year.

Sugarbeets production for 2008 is estimated at 26.8 million tons, 5 percent below the November forecast and 16 percent below the 2007 estimate. Estimated yield, at 26.7 tons per acre, is 1.2 tons higher than last year but 0.1 ton below November. Growers harvested 1.00 million acres, 19 percent below last year. Area planted, at 1.09 million acres, is 14 percent below the 2007 estimate. The 2008 **sunflower** production totaled 3.42 billion pounds, up 19 percent from 2007. The U.S. average yield per acre increased 3 pounds from last year to 1,429 pounds. Planted area, at 2.52 million acres, is 22 percent above last year. Area harvested increased 19 percent from last year to 2.40 million acres. Production of **proso millet** in 2008 totaled 14.9 million bushels, down 12 percent from 2007 but 46 percent higher than 2006. Planted area, at 520,000 acres, is down 9 percent while harvested area, at 460,000 acres, is down 12 percent from last year. Of the three States in the estimating program, harvested acreage was unchanged from 2007 in Nebraska but decreased in Colorado and South Dakota. The average yield is estimated at 32.3 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from last year.